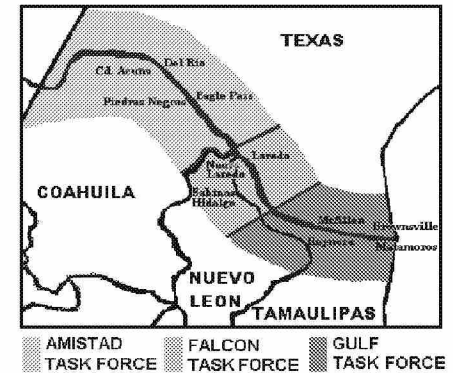


**BORDER 2020
2015-2016 Action Plan
TX-COAH-TAMP-NL Regional Workgroup
September 2015**

The Four-State Regional Workgroup is the most complex of the four regional workgroups, because of its geographical extension and the number of municipalities. The region includes parts of three states and a total of at least 29 municipalities on the Mexican side, and 168 cities and towns on the U.S. side. Recognizing this, the workgroup divided itself into three geographically-based Task Forces—Amistad, Falcon, and Gulf, each of which has established subject-specific committees related to its priority concerns.



During the first half of 2015, the three task forces held meetings to discuss initial priorities for the 2015-2016 Action Plan. Several conference calls with leaders were held in June 2015 to develop a consensus of priorities at the task force and regional workgroup levels.

Border 2020 has five goals and the regional work groups propose projects to implement these goals. These projects are tracked in two-year revolving work plans. The 2015-2016 version is the second of its kind. Several projects have been carried over from the 2013-2014 Action Plan. Due to consensus by the Four State Workgroup, a sixth goal for health and education projects was included. Projects are organized by Border 2020 goals and objectives.

Regional Priorities

1. Improve air quality through the following approaches:
 - a. Increase energy efficiency at the consumption level and the use of renewable energy at all appropriate levels
 - b. Analyze emissions and emission sources in specific air sheds
 - c. A study on the possible health effects caused by climate change
2. Improve water quality by taking the following actions:
 - a. Evaluate the Rio Grande watershed in the region
 - b. Establish enforcement programs to prevent pollution on water bodies on the Mexican side
 - c. Improve water infrastructure as it pertains to treatment systems and distribution in rural areas
3. Address problems of improper waste disposal:
4. Assist communities to build capacity for waste streams: by implementing recycling, household hazardous waste and electronic waste collection and disposal programs and develop comprehensive plans for scrap tire disposal and alternative markets 2
5. Expand environmental education related to waste issues
6. Enhance Joint Preparedness for Environmental Response
 - a. Provide HAZMAT training to local first responders to reduce exposure to chemicals as a result of accidental chemical releases and/or spills in the.

b. Coordinate emergency preparedness response table top exercise or field exercises.

7. Develop a certified environmental health curriculum to train border community health workers and promotoras on lead, mercury, pesticides, and other heavy metals Individual Task Force

Priorities Amistad Task Force

1. Generate plans to mitigate the impacts of climate change in Coahuila
2. Establish air quality monitoring stations and exchange data with Texas
3. Develop a database to measure emissions of hydraulic fracturing operations in Coahuila
4. Increased use of alternate and renewable energy sources (such as landfill gas and solar energy)
5. Develop water conservation and reuse programs for irrigation in Coahuila
6. Establish waste management programs in ten municipalities in Coahuila (including used electronics, household hazardous waste management and recycling)
7. Develop and promote scrap tire, recycling and solid waste management programs on the Kickapoo Reservation

Falcon Task Force

1. Conduct a study on the use of methane gas for energy generation in landfills
2. Monitoring of drilling operations in the Eagle Ford Shale and on the Mexican side
3. Finalizing the cross-border contingency plan
4. Generate studies and projects for water reuse and conservation
5. Develop adequate management, alternative markets(such as tire cutters) and ordinances for scrap tires
6. Establish used electronics and household hazardous waste programs in municipalities in the Falcon Task Force
7. Develop a diagnostic study on the generation and alternative markets for construction waste in the Falcon Task Force
8. Develop a workshop on best practices related to public health and environmental education indicators

Gulf Task Force

1. Outreach programs to improve energy efficiency
2. Educate the community on how to improve water quality
3. Improve or develop Industrial Pretreatment, Fats, Oil & Grease Management and Storm Water Programs.
4. Increase environmental awareness and responsibility with regard to solid waste and water related health effects in city residents, rural communities and colonias
5. Healthy Homes training for promotoras along the GTF' US-MX border